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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/783,403

02/20/2004

Lee Mantis

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6341

7590

07/27/2006

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EXAMINER

LARSON, JUSTIN MATTHEW

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3727

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/783,403

Applicant(s)

MANTIS, LEE

Examiner

Justin M. Larson

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3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 12, 13 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golenz (US D432,490) in view of Stewart (US 5,503,316).

Regarding claim 12, Golenz discloses a vehicle sun visor (Figure 10) and an organizer panel having opposing planar inside (J & C, Figure 1 below) and outside (G & D, Figure 2 below) major panel surfaces, at least one of said inside and outside panel surfaces defining an object storage area; at least one strap (K, Figure 2 below) attached to the sun visor; said at least one strap and organizer panel having a fastener means (type not specified) where the fastener means resides on an area defined by one (G) of said planar inside and outside major panel surfaces (Figure 5), and means (J, C, D, or H, Figures below) located in said object storage area for carrying objects for ready access and use by an occupant of the vehicle. Regarding the specific structure of the sun visor, Official Notice is taken to the fact that it is very well known in the art for a vehicle sun visor to have inside and outside visor surfaces and for the visor be pivotable between a raised position wherein the inside visor surface resides adjacent an interior ceiling of the vehicle and a lowered position wherein the outside visor surface resides adjacent a front windshield of the vehicle. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art

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would certainly realize that the visor shown by Golenz inherently possesses these characteristics or that the organizer panel of Golenz could be used on another visor possessing these characteristics.

Golenz does not disclose the fastener means being male and female fastener means such that the organizer panel can be removed from the visor and the at least one strap for transport outside of the vehicle while the at least one strap is left secured to the visor.

Stewart, however, discloses an attachment (10) mounted to a vehicle sun visor via a strap that wraps around the visor (Figure 4). Stewart teaches that the attachment is removeably attached to the strap using male and female hook-and-loop type fasteners (66), allowing a user to quickly and conveniently remove the carrier from the visor (col. 1 lines 39-40) for transport outside of the vehicle. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the organizer attachment of Golenz by removeably attaching the organizer panel to the visor-strap(s) using male and female hook-and-loop type fasteners, as taught by Stewart, in order to make it easier and more convenient for a user to remove the organizer panel from the visor.

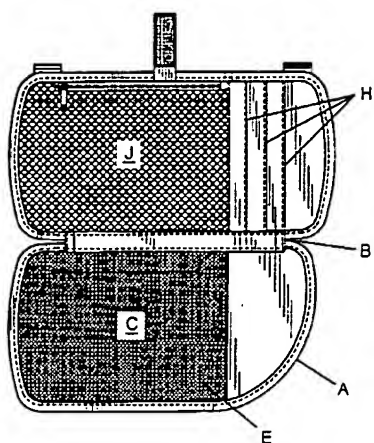


FIGURE 1 (from Golenz, Fig. 2)

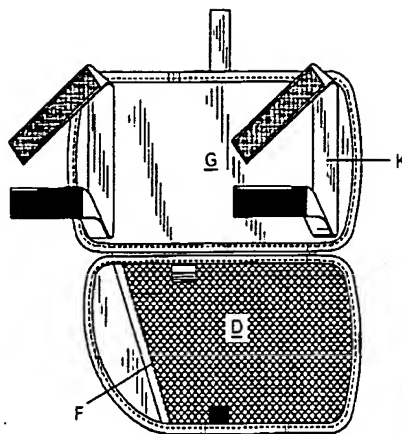


FIGURE 2 (from Golenz, Fig. 4)

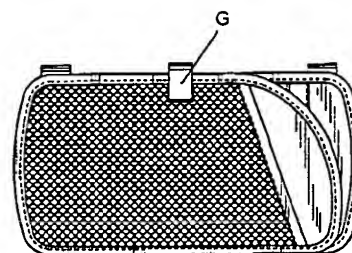


FIGURE 3 (from Golenz, Fig. 7)

Regarding claim 16, the organizer attachment of Golenz in view of Stewart comprises a second organizer panel (A, Figure 1 above) attached along a longitudinal edge (B, Figure 1 above) of said first organizer panel, and having opposing inside and outside major panel surfaces comprising respective second and third object storage areas (C & D, Figures above), said second organizer panel adapted for pivoting movement between a closed position wherein said second object storage area overlies said first object storage area, and an open position for accessing each of said first and second object storage areas, and said third object storage area being accessible in both the open and closed positions of said second organizer panel, effectively satisfying the limitations of the claim.

Regarding claim 17, the organizer attachment of Golenz in view of Stewart includes a means (G, Figure 3 above) for releasably holding the second organizer panel in the closed position, effectively satisfying the limitations of the claim.

Regarding claim 13, the organizer attachment of Golenz in view of Stewart includes means for carrying objects, the means comprising a plurality of sleeves (H, Figure 1 above) adapted for receiving and storing respective compact disks, effectively satisfying the limitations of the claims.

Regarding claim 18, the organizer attachment of Golenz in view of Stewart comprises means (pockets, C & D, Figures above) located in said second and third object storage areas for carrying objects for ready access and use by an occupant of the vehicle.

Regarding claim 19, the organizer attachment of Golenz in view of Stewart does not disclose the second and third object storage areas each having a plurality of sleeves for holding compact disks, however, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place additional compact disk sleeves on the second and third object storage areas in order to allow a user to store more objects, and to allow their storage on more than just one of the four available panels. Examiner takes the position that rearranging the compact disk sleeves among the organizer panels involves only routine skill in the art.

8. Claims 14, 15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified Golenz device of paragraph #2 above in view of Harbison (US 4,781,409), and further in view of Godshaw (US 6,742,636).

Regarding claim 14, the modified Golenz device of paragraph #2 above includes the claimed features except for there being a plurality of utility pockets, each having an elastic opening.

Harbison, however, teaches that it is known in the art to provide a plurality of utility pockets on a panel of an organizer attachment for a vehicle sun visor (Figures 1 and 2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the modified Golenz device of paragraph #2 above by forming more than the one utility pocket, as taught by Harbison, on any of the organizer panels currently having only one utility pocket, as taught by Golenz, allowing a user to better store and organizer a greater number of objects on their vehicle sun visor.

Now, Godshaw discloses a carrying bag, but more particularly, discloses a utility pocket (70) on the bag that is formed with an elastic opening (76). Godshaw teaches that forming a pocket with this elastic opening helps to retain items within the pocket (col. 3 lines 25-27). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the modified Golenz device by forming the utility pockets with an elastic opening, as taught by Godshaw, in order to better retain objects with the pockets, the elastic helping to prevent object from falling out of the pockets.

Regarding claim 15, the utility pockets of Golenz are shown to have openings extending along lateral dimensions of the organizer panel. Similarly, those of Harbison (Figure 2) are also shown to having openings extending along lateral dimensions of the organizer panel. Therefore, when modifying the openings of the utility pockets of the modified Golenz device to include elastic, the elastic openings would in fact be along a

lateral dimension of the organizer panel, effectively satisfying the limitations of the claims.

Regarding claim 20, the modified Golenz device of paragraph #2 above does not disclose the second and third object storage areas each having a plurality of utility pockets, however, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place additional utility pockets on the second and third object storage areas in order to allow a user to store more objects, and to allow their storage on more than just one of the four available panels. Examiner takes the position that rearranging the various utility pockets and compact disk sleeves among the organizer panels involves only routine skill in the art.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 5/8/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has asserted that the presently claimed combination is neither discloses, taught, or suggested in the prior art of record; namely, Golenz and Stewart. Applicant further explains in some detail how Golenz alone and Stewart alone fail to disclose the claimed features, however, the combination of Golenz and Stewart together, as set forth in this Office action, does satisfy the claims as currently presented for the reasons set forth in the action. The combination includes at least one separate strap for removably attaching the panel to the visor.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin M. Larson whose telephone number is (571) 272-8649. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Newhouse can be reached on (571) 272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JML
7/19/06


NATHAN J. NEWHOUSE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER